



## The Threshold

Towson Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
*A Welcoming Congregation*

### What does it mean to be a people of deep listening?

**OCTOBER 4, 2020 - 10:30 AM**

**REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER: *UU THE VOTE: LOVE DEFEATS HATE***

In conversations, I hear that people are feeling “anxious,” “fearful,” “concerned,” “scared,” “uncertain,” about the future of our democracy and the “united” part of the United States. In 1867, not long after the Civil War, a Unitarian born in Maryland delivered a lecture on our “National Salvation” in which she said, “as amid the darkness and the cold, nature spreads her dews and carries on the work, so amid the darkness, cold, and pain the spirit of reform carries on her work of progress, and sows in tears the harvest she is to reap in joy.” What can we Unitarian Universalists do in the coming weeks to ensure that “the spirit of reform carries on the work?” We will hear voices of Unitarian Universalists working on UU The Vote.

**VIRTUAL VESPERS – OCTOBER 5, 7-7:30 PM**

Virtual Vespers is a contemplative service of readings and music. This is a time to rest from the demands of the world; to let go of stress; to meditate; and to deepen one's spiritual life. Our focus this coming Monday, in keeping with the monthly theme of deep listening, will be listening to the still small voice within. — *Rev. Clare*



**YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

Families with kids in grades Kindergarten through 7 are invited to join us on Sunday mornings for a Family meeting followed by breakout rooms for classes. Our faith asks us to practice compassion. It's part of our Second UU Principle, “Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.” So what's one of the ways our faith guides us into becoming a people of deep listening? It tells us to “Listen to your heart's call to be compassionate!” Please see the parent emails or contact Joyce Duncan at [tuucdre@towsonuuc.org](mailto:tuucdre@towsonuuc.org) for more information on how to join that meeting or the meetings planned for other age groups.



## CLARE'S COLLOQUY

“What does it mean to be a people who listen deeply?” This is our spiritual question for October.

Deep down, I believe each and every person yearns to be heard, yearns to have another listen to their thoughts, their emotions, their passions. This is how we share who we are and what is important to us. This is how we become known as unique and unrepeatable human beings.

Our Soul Matters Sharing Circle encourages the practice of deep listening as a spiritual practice. Too often we hear what another says and immediately jump in with our own life experience. The other person is left feeling unheard. Deep listening invites us to give another the gift of being heard without interruption.

But what works at an interpersonal level is no longer working for me when it comes to the headlines.

I've decided not to listen to those who are actively working to harm, tear down, and demean others.

I was raised to believe that everyone deserves to be heard. And, at an interpersonal level, I still believe that.

But I no longer believe that everything needs to be heard that is broadcast on the news or on social media.

I'm choosing to listen to those who share sources and facts; to voices of reason, and to the still small voice of conscience.

For me, part of what it means to be a people who listen deeply is deciding whose voices are not being heard--for they are often the ones who need to be heard most. As leaders of TUUC, we end Board meetings and Program Council meetings with the question, “Who might we have forgotten to include in our discussions, deliberations, and decisions?”

Ask and answer that question, and, as Joyce Sutphen writes, “This is your chance to listen carefully. Your whole life might depend on what you hear.”

### UPCOMING AUCTION COACHING SESSIONS:

**Saturday, October 3: 10 AM & Tuesday, October 6: 7:30 PM**



The 2020 TUUC Auction Committee has scheduled several online Auction Coaching Sessions! These are Zoom meetings that will cover a variety of topics including: how to enter your donation, introducing Bid Beacon—the software hosting our Virtual Auction, as well as various highlights of Auction Night events! All are encouraged to attend these online sessions. More information is available [here](#).

## GOVERNANCE UPDATE AND CALL TO SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*By Sue Royer, President*

We conducted [four](#) listening sessions [in September](#), to review the key elements of the proposed Bylaws revision. You'll find a link to the slides [here](#).



It became clear during discussion at one of the listening sessions, that the age required to be a Member was not clear, nor was it clear how members of the Nominating Committee were selected. Also, we received an amendment about Board meetings, which the Board accepted with modification. The Bylaws version that was sent on September 18 includes those three updates.

We are working with a law firm with expertise in Maryland church law. They are helping us not only with the Bylaws, but with an amendment and restatement of our Articles of Incorporation. (Yes, TUUC is incorporated!).

**Here are some questions that came up during the listening sessions, along with the answers:**



Q: What is the number for a quorum changing to?

A: We are increasing the number of members which constitute a quorum from the lesser of 50 Members or **15%** to the lesser of 50 Members or **20%** of the total membership last certified to the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Q: What is the percentage of Members required to approve a Called Minister?

A: Ninety (90) percent of the Members must vote in favor to call a Minister. The quorum for a Special Congregational Meeting to call a minister is 50 percent of the Members. In our current Bylaws, we require eighty (80) percent of the Members to vote in favor to call a Minister.

Q: What is a contract minister?

A: Examples of contract ministers are an interim minister and a ministerial intern. Contract ministers are hired without a congregational vote.

Q: Why the change to the Endowment Committee from being elected to being appointed by the Board?

A: Under Maryland law, the Board of Trustees is the fiduciary for TUUC's Endowment. Rev. David Pyle, in his assessment of TUUC's governance in 2016, recommended that the members of the Endowment Committee be appointed by the Board.

Q: Why is the portion of the Endowment Fund that goes to the annual operating budget being changed from 4% to "up to 5%"?

A: The Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA), which is a national standard and also part of Maryland law, allows for up to 7% of the value to be spent in any year. It also requires that the amount be based on the average market value of the endowment investments over the 12 quarters (or more) immediately

preceding the calculation. This aspect of UPMIFA applies only to permanent restricted endowments, which are restricted by the donor or law. By allowing up to 5% of TUUC's Endowment to be directed to the operating budget, this provides greater flexibility in budgeting and planning at TUUC.

Q: I see we have a provision for Youth Members, age 16 to 18. How will this affect the financial contribution that we owe the UUA each year?

A: We want to encourage youth who have gone through the Coming of Age program and/or who are active in the YRUU program to become members of the church. Under Maryland law, those under 18 are not permitted to vote on certain matters, which is laid out in the proposed Bylaws. The UUA changed the dues formula several years ago; now it is based on our annual budget rather than the number of Members.

Q: How are the members of the Nominating Committee selected?

A: The Chair is appointed by the Board. The remaining members are elected by the Congregation at the annual meeting.

Also at the listening sessions, several former members of the Board expressed their appreciation for this work. They are happy that we've been able to follow-through to complete the revision of the Bylaws in support of an improved form of governance.

The Board of Trustees is calling a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, October 25, 2020 on Zoom with check-in starting at 11:45 am. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the proposed Bylaws and to vote on amended Articles of Incorporation. If you would like an Absentee Ballot, please contact [secretary@towsonuuc.org](mailto:secretary@towsonuuc.org). Note that Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be submitted in writing to [secretary@towsonuuc.org](mailto:secretary@towsonuuc.org) by 5 pm on Monday, September 28. Amendments will not be accepted on the floor of the meeting.

## **BIPOC CAUCUS**

If you identify as Black, Indigenous or a person of color (BIPOC), you're invited to join the Central East Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association's BIPOC gathering happening two Mondays of the month at 6:30pm ET.

In the gatherings, lay folks of color, lay leaders of color and/or religious professionals of color join to be in community. Conversations focus on topics like wellness and resilience and the goal is to center BIPOC experiences and create space to explore our UU experiences.

Please email Sana Saeed, [ssaeed@uua.org](mailto:ssaeed@uua.org) or Hope Johnson at [hjohnson@uua.org](mailto:hjohnson@uua.org) for zoom information. Dates for Fall Gatherings: October 12th and 26th, November 9th and 23rd, December 7th and 21st.

## TUUC AUCTION 2020—*DIAMOND JUBLIATION!* OCT 11 - NOV 21

Our 2020 “*Diamond Jubilation!*” Auction is now present in a big way on the TUUC website. To get there from the home page, go to *EVENTS* along the top and click on *AUCTION*. You can also find the *AUCTION* link on the left side if you’re viewing the church calendar. Click [here](#) for a preview. You’ll find everything you need to know about the Auction: News, schedules, how to donate, descriptions of donations, how to enter the Auction and bid, the Auction Night program, and Help and Support with links to get personal responses to questions or problems that you might be having. The Auction section is updated frequently so be sure to check back regularly.



Please keep the donations coming. Bidding this year is extended. While we’ll continue accepting donations, please try to submit your donation(s) before bidding starts on [October 11<sup>th</sup>](#). This will give them maximum exposure to interested buyers and help boost the Auction’s success. It will also help the Auction Committee finalize the list of “Live” (Auction night only) items and prevent some donations from being unnecessarily blocked from open bidding.

Be sure to get on *Bid Beacon*, our virtual auction software—via [this link](#). You’ll need to be on Bid Beacon to get an up-to-the-minute view of all that’s being offered and the current bid and availability statuses. Most importantly, you need to be on Bid Beacon in order to bid. As in past years, some of the very best items and activities are being offered at a fixed price and sell-out quickly once bidding is opened. With this year’s extended bidding period, you may be disappointed if you wait very long after bidding opens on October 11<sup>th</sup> to enter the Auction and start bidding.



You’re able to “practice” bid at this time but all practice bids and sales will be erased at noon on October 11<sup>th</sup> when the Auction officially opens. Donations will continue to be added until just before Auction Night, November 21<sup>st</sup> so you’ll want to get back on Bid Beacon often. Some of the top donations will be reserved for “Live” bidding and will only be made available during a brief period on Auction Night. These are analogous to the Voice Bid items in our traditional auction.

We are counting on volunteers to help with a variety of tasks before, during and after Auction Night. We need technical helpers, drivers, donation organizers, and proxy bidders. If you’re willing to help or think you might be interested, please send an email to [auctionvolunteer@towsonuuc.org](mailto:auctionvolunteer@towsonuuc.org) to offer your help or to start a dialog. Thank you.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TUUC

### CABIN FEVER

Join our online movie group for weekly discussions.

Email [churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org) to be added to our mailing list and receive Zoom meeting information.



### THIS WEEK—JOHNNY GUITAR

In this classic 1954 Western, Joan Crawford is a strong-willed saloon owner wrongly suspected of murder and bank robbery. (Available on Amazon. Not rated.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/dme6UM5TAb4>

Discussion: Saturday, October 3, 4 PM.



### NEXT WEEK—DICK JOHNSON IS DEAD

In this funny and poignant documentary, a daughter (Director Kirsten Johnson) and her elderly father grapple with his impending death. (Available on Netflix. Rated PG-13.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/wfTmT6C5DnM>

Discussion: Saturday, October 10, 4 PM.



### TUUC BLOOD DRIVE—OCTOBER 7, 2020

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled **Wednesday, October 7th, 2020** for the next TUUC Blood Drive.

There is a critical need for blood right now but we are also in a different time with social distancing and COVID-19 disease prevention. **We at TUUC strongly encourage anyone that has ANY reservation about giving blood at this time for ANY reason to please sit this one out.** We will get past this and will have more blood drives in the future for you to participate in. Please only join us on October 7th, if you are healthy and have no concerns about donating.



**American  
Red Cross**

**NEW INFO:** The Red Cross is testing all donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The antibody test is authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and will indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to the coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms. **This test is not to diagnose current COVID-19 symptoms**, referred to as a diagnostic test. **Click here** to learn more about the COVID-19 Antibody testing.

To sign up for an appointment time between 10:00am-4:00pm please use **this link** OR email Clare Flynn-Avallone with your preferred times. Give the Gift of Life - Give Blood!

## WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

You are invited to drop in to "Writing As A Spiritual Practice from 1:00-2:00 on Friday, Oct. 2nd. We will introduce ourselves; I will share a quotation and writing prompt; and then we will write together for 10-15 minutes without stopping.

At the end, I will ring a chime, inviting everyone to stop writing. Those who wish to do so will share what they have written---without comment, feedback, or judgement. This is sacred sharing and listening. The goal is not to improve one's writing. The goal is to know another and be known.



---- *Rev. Clare*

## MUSIC AT TUUC—CHOIR REHEARSALS ON THURSDAYS AT 7:30 PM

The TUUC Choir continues to meet weekly on Thursday evenings. While they won't be singing as a group in the Zoom services (due to latency issues), they will be working on a variety of musical activities. The rehearsals include social time to "check in" with one another, announcements and information about upcoming projects, and some singing time as well. Vocal exercises keep our voices in shape, and we'll be working on music and making plans for virtual choir recordings (some audio only and hopefully some with video). Many choir members are called upon to lead music live on Sunday mornings as well. If you'd like to join in, check the church calendar for the login information. Please also email Music Director Tracy Hall at [music@towsonuuc.org](mailto:music@towsonuuc.org) if you plan to come for the first time.



## MUSICIANS WANTED

If you play an instrument or feel comfortable singing as a soloist, we need you! Each Sunday, we try to keep a balanced variety of soloists and song leaders. Please contact Music Director Tracy Hall at [music@towsonuuc.org](mailto:music@towsonuuc.org) if you have an interest in sharing music with the congregation in our Zoom services.



## ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS FOR THE THRESHOLD

TUUC committees are encouraged to submit an article or announcement to the weekly published Threshold newsletter. Please remember the deadline is **Wednesday at 12:00 PM** and should be sent to [news@towsonuuc.org](mailto:news@towsonuuc.org).







## TUUC GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Green Sanctuary Committee is meeting at noon on 10/4 Sunday for our monthly session. The session will last 40 minutes. If you would like to join us, please contact Carel Hedlund on Breeze for Zoom link/info. Environmental/legislative ideas the group can do are welcome. Thank you!

- Charlene Rossi, Co-chair, Green Sanctuary Committee

## IN MEMORY OF THE REVEREND DAVID HICKS MACPHERSON

The Reverend David Hicks MacPherson, the first minister of our congregation, died, peacefully, on September 25, 2020 after a day of calls with friends and a week in which he celebrated his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Dave and I last spoke this past January as TUUC prepared to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee. I was somewhat surprised to have reached Dave as he was usually out biking! A decade ago, he traveled from Richmond to preach as part of TUUC celebrating its Golden Anniversary. He preached on *"Who We Were, Are, And Ought To Be."* He remembered the names of

members. He remembered this congregation's witness during the Civil Rights movement. He remembered finding, on our grounds, the shoes of a baby of people who were enslaved, over a century and a half ago, as part of Hampton Mansion.

The Richmond UU congregation wrote of The Reverend MacPherson, "He never missed an opportunity to share a story or an experience. He held deep convictions about social justice, and was a staunch advocate for inclusion and civil rights of all marginalized people. He lived out his faith through involvement in every community in which he lived, and saw the future of Unitarian Universalism in every young face he encountered."

A staunch Universalist, last January, David was writing an article for The Unitarian Universalist Association's World magazine on a Unitarian Universalist theology for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dave was a beloved minister and cherished colleague who was always ready to help and had a hearty laugh. He will be greatly missed.

Rev. Dave is survived by his daughter Dianna, son Duncan, granddaughter Erin, and grandson Ian. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy, and his son Douglas. An online memorial service will be held on October 24, 2020 at 4 PM via the [First UU Church of Richmond, VA](#). Notes of condolences may be sent to Dianna MacPherson, 903 Kilby Station Rd., Ashland, VA 23005. Alternatively, emails of condolence may be sent to [MacPhersonFamilyRVA@gmail.com](mailto:MacPhersonFamilyRVA@gmail.com).

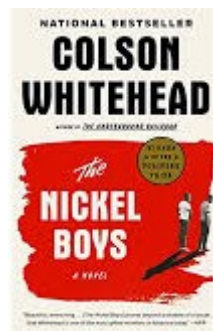
----Rev. Clare



## TUUC BOOK CLUB

October 7, 2020, 7:30PM: The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead (2019—213 pages)

Winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize, Colson Whitehead brilliantly dramatizes the story of two boys sentenced to a hellish reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida. Though it's brief—213 pages long—Whitehead has made a conceptually thick, intense, political book ... From its opening lines through the novel's elegant, heartbreaking closing, Whitehead's lucid, sparkling, storytelling incites readers to bear witness for these children real and imagined.



### Zoom Info:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97308154420>

Meeting ID: 973 0815 4420

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,97308154420# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,97308154420# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 973 0815 4420

**NEXT MEETING ON  
NOVEMBER 4, 7:30PM—**

**The Leftovers  
by Tom  
Perrotta  
(2011)**



## AMAZON SMILE

**QUARTERLY DONATION: \$102.83**



Thank you for choosing Towson UUC as your preferred charity with Amazon Smile! Every time you use the site with TUUC listed as your preferred charity, Amazon donates a small amount (0.5%) from your purchase to our church. This quarter, TUUC made \$102.83 from Amazon Smile donations.

## PASSING THE PLATE

We are committed to being a spiritual community in virtual space during this crisis and we need your financial support. This includes paying our ongoing financial commitments to our vendors and staff who are continuing to work remotely.

Renewing your pledge is more important than ever and now may be done online here: <https://www.towsonuuc.org/2021-pledge-form>

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE THROUGH BREEZE

Paying your pledge or making contributions can be easily sent through Breeze through this link:

<https://tuucdatabase.breezechms.com/give/online>

## PAYPAL CONTRIBUTIONS

You may use PayPal to pay your pledge to [treasurer@towsonuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@towsonuuc.org). To avoid additional fees, send your contribution to the setting "family and friends" and please note the purpose of your donation in the message area.

## MAIL CONTRIBUTIONS

You may still mail checks to the church. Mail is checked weekly.

## HOW TO TEXT YOUR CONTRIBUTION OR PLEDGE

Send a text to: 410-834-0700 and indicate where you want your contribution to go by entering one of the commands to get your contribution to the right fund. See NEW examples below:



<b>amount + 2020-21</b>	<b>2020-2021 Stewardship Campaign</b>
<i>ex: text "50 2020-21" to give to 2020-2021 Stewardship Campaign</i>	
<b>amount + ODB</b>	<b>ODB Casseroles</b>
<i>ex: text "50 ODB" to give to ODB Casseroles</i>	
<b>amount + GreenProducts</b>	<b>Green Products</b>
<i>ex: text "50 GreenProducts" to give to Green Products</i>	
<b>amount + SAC</b>	<b>Social Action Collection</b>
<i>ex: text "50 SAC" to give to Social Action Collection</i>	
<b>amount + Plate</b>	<b>Plate Collection</b>
<i>ex: text "50 Plate" to give to Plate Collection</i>	
<b>amount + Auction</b>	<b>Auction</b>
<i>ex: text "50 Auction" to give to Auction</i>	

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

Calendar is subject to change. Check the website calendar [here](#) for most current schedule.

2 Oct	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
3 Oct	Saturday	Auction Coaching Session	10:30 AM
4 Oct	Sunday	Family Meetings / Classes	9:00 AM
4 Oct	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
5 Oct	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
6 Oct	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	12:00 PM
6 Oct	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
6 Oct	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
6 Oct	Tuesday	Auction Coaching Session	7:30 PM
7 Oct	Wednesday	Red Cross Blood Drive	8:30 AM
7 Oct	Wednesday	The Book Group	7:30 PM
8 Oct	Thursday	Rehearsal	6:00 PM
8 Oct	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
8 Oct	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
9 Oct	Friday	Happy Hour	5:00 PM
9 Oct	Friday	YRUU Bonfire at TUUC	7:00 PM

**Don't Work Sick**  
**Don't School Sick**  
**Don't Church Sick**

## ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	Adults/ Children
9/27/2020	10:30 AM	74



1710 Dulaney Valley Road  
Lutherville MD 21093-9705  
Phone: 410-825-6045  
Email: [churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org)  
Website: [www.towsonuuc.org](http://www.towsonuuc.org)



### Minister

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger  
[revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto:revclare@towsonuuc.org)

### Leadership

#### Board of Trustees:

President: Sue Royer (2020-2021)  
President-Elect: Andrew Hager (2020-2021)  
Treasurer: Wendell Finner (2019-2021)  
Secretary: Susan Riggs (2020-2022)

#### Trustees-at-Large:

John Mattingly (2019-2021)  
Samantha Saalfield (2019-2021)  
Angela Castillo-Epps (2020-2022)  
Patty Barry (2020-2022)

### Administrative Team

Head of Staff: Rev. Clare Petersberger  
Finance: Vacant  
House and Grounds: Todd Robertson  
Church Administrator: Kai Aiyetoro

### Program Committee

Convener: Andrew Hager  
Communications: Patty Barry

### Staff

Youth Religious Exploration Director:  
Joyce Duncan, Credentialed RE  
[tuudre@towsonuuc.org](mailto:tuudre@towsonuuc.org)

#### Music Director:

Tracy Hall  
[music@towsonuuc.org](mailto:music@towsonuuc.org)

#### Church Administrator:

Kai Aiyetoro  
[churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org)

#### Communications and Outreach Coordinator:

Philip Browne  
[news@towsonuuc.org](mailto:news@towsonuuc.org)

#### Bookkeeper:

Raly Baltchev  
[bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org)

## Missed an issue of the *Threshold*?

You can always find past issues at

<https://www.towsonuuc.org/our-news>

### TECHNICAL USHERS NEEDED

We are recruiting additional technical ushers. We want to rotate in one or two new ushers to give others a break. You should be comfortable with Zoom and technology and be willing to attend a rehearsal on Thursday at 6 pm as well as join the Zoom meeting 20 minutes early on Sunday morning. To volunteer, please contact our Church Administrator, Kai Aiyetoro, at [churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org).

